

A TRIBUTE TO MARILYN DIGIACOBBE ON THE OCCASION OF HER APPOINTMENT AS SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLIC LIAISON

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Marilyn DiGiaccobe. She has been promoted to the position of special assistant to the President for public liaison, and will be honored in my district on May 17.

Marilyn was born in the great city of Philadelphia and raised across the Delaware River in Glendora, NJ. After receiving her bachelor's degree in political science from Rutgers University, Marilyn worked as a counselor for disadvantaged teens enrolled in Camden County, New Jersey's summer employment and training program. She then got her introduction to politics as an intern in the office of our former colleague, Jim Florio. Marilyn has since worked on the staff of the Presidential transition team and the Democratic National Committee. She has also worked on political campaigns in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and established her own small business, DiGiaccobe and Associates.

Enroute to her latest position, Marilyn has honored her skills for communicating the President's policies to diverse constituencies on a wide range of issues. In addition, she has assisted in the planning of special events such as the October 1995 visit of Pope John Paul II to the United States, White House Conferences for Trade and Investment in Northern Ireland and Central and Eastern Europe, and has coordinated and participated in Presidential delegations to Ireland and Poland. Based on her work in the Italian-American community, Marilyn was honored with the Democrat of the Year Award by the Italian-American Democratic Leadership Council in October 1995.

As someone who has been fortunate enough to know Marilyn on both a personal and professional basis, I am confident that the President has made the right choice in appointing her as special assistant for public liaison. Mr. Speaker, in light of her many past accomplishments and her recent appointment, I ask that my colleagues join me today in extending their congratulations and best wishes to Marilyn DiGiaccobe.

TRIBUTE TO GARTH C. REEVES,
SR.

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to pay tribute to a great Floridian and a great American, Garth C. Reeves, Sr.: reporter, editor, publisher, banker, entrepreneur, community activist, and humanitarian.

Tomorrow Mr. Reeves will receive the honorary Doctor of Journalism degree from the University of Miami in recognition of his professional commitment and contributions as a leader of the Nation's African-American press,

as well as his personal involvement in promoting understanding in South Florida and beyond. Garth Reeves currently serves as publisher emeritus of the Miami Times, a newspaper founded by his father, Henry E.S. Reeves, in 1923.

Garth Reeves' life has been dedicated to the achievement of excellence and service to humankind. Owner of the Miami Times, he has served South Florida for more than 50 years. He has been a reporter, columnist, managing editor, and publisher since 1940 when he earned his B.S. degree in printing at Florida A&M University.

Garth Reeves' community involvement has not been limited to publishing the Miami Times. His impressive resume does not reveal the depth of his participation in struggles to bring civil rights to all Dade Counties. In the 1950's, for example, Reeves was part of a group who filed lawsuits to open up previously all-white public beaches and golf courses. His non-public actions indicate a quite, low-profile man who has been known to pay hospital and funeral bills and school expenses for the less fortunate and then seek to avoid any fanfare for himself.

In professional journalism activities, Reeves served as a juror for the prestigious Pulitzer Prizes in 1977 and 1978 and was chosen Publisher of the year by the National Newspaper Publishers Association, which he once served as president, on three separate occasions.

In education, Reeves served as vice chairman of the Miami-Dade Community College board of trustees and as a trustee of Barry University, Bethune-Cookman College, and Florida Memorial College. He has earned service awards from Florida A&M University (1965 and 1974), Florida Memorial, and Barry.

He has been justifiably honored for his youth work with the Boy Scouts of America and the YMCA. Reeves also has been active in attempting to create new opportunities for south Floridians through banking and his involvement in numerous foundations and charities. Predictably, this involvement has brought him a long list of awards.

Florida A&M University has recognized him for his leadership and service by creating the one million dollar Garth C. Reeves Eminent Scholars Chair in Journalism. The Reeves chair honors Garth's contributions to his profession and provides support for the education of aspiring journalists.

Garth Reeves' caring commitment to his fellow man and his service to his community have taken him to where few others have gone before. The University of Miami is right to bestow one of its highest awards on this true son of South Florida. Garth C. Reeves, Sr., servant of the people, community activist, journalist, great Floridian, and great American.

THE STAIN OF NAZI GOLD

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, as the only survivor of the Holocaust ever elected to the Congress of the United States, I want to share with my colleagues a thoughtful editorial from the New York Times, entitled "The Stain of Nazi Gold."

Under Secretary of Commerce Stuart Eizenstat, one of our Nation's most respected and serious public servants, deserves enormous credit for having pursued this entire matter with extraordinary diligence, intelligence, and integrity. We all owe him a debt of gratitude.

THE STAIN OF NAZI GOLD

The honest excavation of history can bring sobering discoveries, as the American Government has now found in an examination of Nazi Germany's stolen gold and its redistribution after the war. No nation emerges unscathed from this investigation, including the United States, and many are disgraced. It is saddening but not altogether surprising to learn that morality and justice, especially the international obligation to look after the survivors of the Holocaust, were swiftly sacrificed to expediency when the gold was divvied up after the war. Remedying this failure, as the report rightly notes, is the unfinished business of World War II.

The extraordinary inquiry, which involved the declassification of nearly one million pages of documents, was initiated by President Clinton after Switzerland coldly rebuffed Jews seeking to recover gold and other assets their families had deposited in Swiss banks before the war. Under the determined direction of Stuart Eizenstat, the Under Secretary of Commerce, and William Slany, a State Department historian, it touches on wartime economic collaboration with Germany but deals mainly with the anemic postwar effort to restore gold and other valuables to the nations and peoples from which they had been stolen.

Sweden, Portugal, Spain, Turkey and Argentina will want to take notice. The extent of their economic cooperation with the Nazis has been slowly unfolding in recent years, but Mr. Eizenstat makes clear they profited from their neutrality. Even as the threat of German invasion waned in the last years of the war, Sweden sold Germany iron ore and ball bearings, Portugal provided tungsten for steelmaking, Spain traded goods and raw materials and Turkey shipped chrome. Argentina defied efforts to prevent the transfer of German funds there from Europe.

Switzerland is properly singled out. Though helpful to the Allies as a base for spying, it served as Nazi banker, gold keeper and financial broker. Switzerland provided Germany with arms, ammunition, aluminum and agricultural products. These countries made only a fitful effort after the war to return the looted gold and other assets they received in payments from Germany during the war. Here America bears considerable responsibility. It led the postwar effort to recover and distribute the gold. Yet only a small portion of the \$580 million in gold stolen from conquered governments, worth some \$5.6 billion today, was ever recovered. Even less of the millions of dollars in gold and other assets taken from individuals was returned.

Switzerland was aggressively unhelpful, resisting accounting and recovery efforts for years and not honoring agreements to liquidate German assets held in Switzerland. The American report estimates that as much as \$400 million in German-looted gold remained in the Swiss National Bank at the end of the war, but no more than \$98 million was returned.

The task of tracing and apportioning the gold and other assets was daunting, but American officials tolerated intransigence by other nations and accepted pitiful restitution agreements in the name of cold-war solidarity. Eager to obtain access to an Azores air base in the 1950's, Washington let Portugal surrender only about one-tenth of the German gold it held at the end of the war.